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INSIDE

State's Hughes Sees Public Diplomacy as "Generational Challenge"

By Michael Jay Friedman
Washington File Staff
Writer

Washington -- U.S. public diplomacy strategy involves "the global and generational challenge... of ideas and values," State Department Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs Karen Hughes told the House Committee on International Relations November 10.

Hughes outlined three broad strategic imperatives and detailed for the committee several initiatives designed to achieve U.S. public diplomacy goals:

Offering a positive vision of opportunity and hope to the world's peoples;



Karen Hughes, Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs

Isolating and marginalizing those who rationalize murder in the name of

religion; and

Fostering a sense of common interests and values among Americans and the peoples of other countries, cultures and faiths.

Hughes stressed that "public diplomacy is a dialogue, as much about listening as it is about speaking." She described her "listening tours" in the Middle East and elsewhere and noted President Bush's request that Cabinet members and other senior executive branch officials reach out to foreign publics. She urged that

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Statement by the Development Assistance Group on Ethiopia

Addis Ababa, November 11, 2005

The Development Assistance Group (DAG) expresses its deep sadness at the deaths and injuries in the recent civil unrest in Addis Ababa and elsewhere in Ethiopia, in line with the EU and US Ambassadors statement of

November 6, 2005.

The DAG is concerned about these political disturbances and the effects that these may have on sustainable development for the country.

The DAG mandate is sustainable development in Ethiopia. These disturbances weaken the envi-

ronment for aid effectiveness and poverty reduction, jointly built between government and the donor community over the past few years. This is against a background of chronic poverty and a looming economic shock related to oil prices.

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State's Hughes Sees Public Diplomacy as "Generational Challenge" . . .

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members of Congress do the same.

DIPLOMACY INITIATIVES

The under secretary grouped public diplomacy initiatives under rubrics she called the "four E's": engage, exchange, educate and empower, points she also emphasized in a November 4 address to the Washington-based Women's Foreign Policy Group. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/xarchives/display.html?p=washfile-english&y=2005&m=November&x=20051104172556jmnamedeirf3.141421e-02&t=xarchives/xarchitem.html>).)

Calling for more aggressive efforts to engage internationally, Hughes described the Department of State's new rapid response office, dedicated to monitoring world news and responding quickly to misinformation or emerging stories.

She also outlined plans to expand the visibility of U.S. policy-makers and spokesmen on foreign television to:

- Focus existing speaker programs more strategically,

- Ask ambassadors and public affairs officers to speak out more frequently on issues of importance in their post countries, and

- Make greater use of Internet and other modern communications

technologies.

Hughes praised the second "E" -- exchange -- as possibly the "single most successful public diplomacy effort of the past 50 years." These programs will focus on such influential groups as religious leaders, teachers, journalists and women. A new public-private partnership, the Fortune/State Department Women Entrepreneurship Internship, will afford emerging women business leaders from around the world the opportunity to observe and work with executives at Fortune 500 corporations.

Regarding "educate," Hughes explained that funds have been redirected to expand English language teaching programs. A "strategic languages initiative" now being developed will encourage American students to study such crucial languages as Chinese and Arabic.

A January 2006 University President's Summit will encourage the enrollment of foreign students. While post-September 11, 2001, visa delays have been reduced, work remains both to make this known and to ensure that international students understand that the U.S. values and welcomes them.

Through empowerment, Hughes aims to afford Muslim Americans and other U.S. citizens the opportunities to explain the United States to other peoples, especially crucial in arenas where the voices of U.S. government officials might be neither the most powerful nor the most credible voices. Hughes described for the committee the

successful efforts of "citizen-ambassadors" who accompanied her on a previous listening tour.

The under secretary also stressed Department of State efforts to integrate public diplomacy more deeply into the policy-making process. Hughes or a member of her staff participates in Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice's key policy meetings, and each regional bureau now has a deputy assistant secretary who reports both to Hughes and the bureau head, she said. Interagency strategic communications have been strengthened and steps taken to reinvigorate public diplomacy as a rewarding career path for State Department professionals.

Hughes also praised the idea of creating a private foundation or similar organization as a means of engaging the private sector in the nation's public diplomacy.

"We have a lot under way," the under secretary said, "we're just beginning and our work is critically important."

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

United States Welcomes Sudanese First Vice President

By Christine A. Terada
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- First Vice President of Sudan H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit spoke to a filled room at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, established by Congress in 1968, on November 4 during his first official visit to the United States since the death of his predecessor, John Garang. He expressed gratitude toward the American government and updated audience members on the implementation of Sudan's landmark Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA).

Kiir thanked those who provided the people of southern Sudan and other marginalized areas with humanitarian assistance, saying, "We are very grateful for this assistance and have expressed the wish that the emergency humanitarian aid be converted to long-term rehabilitation and development programs."

He said the peace agreement "is moving slowly, but in the right direction," since the untimely death of Sudan's late leader, John Garang, who died in a plane crash weeks after becoming vice president.

Kiir invited Foreign Minister Lam Akol and Minister of State for Finance Lual Deng to address the remaining challenges and tensions surrounding the peace agreement between the government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM).

Obstacles facing the CPA's imple-

mentation include unequal shares in oil revenues, demarcation of boundaries between regions and U.S. sanctions. According to a press release on the event, Kiir said that "although the U.S. had been helpful in providing assistance during the war and in facilitating the peace talks, newly announced



U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick, left, meets Sudan's vice president Salva Kiir Mayardit, in Juba, Sudan, Friday Nov. 11, 2005.

sanctions on Sudan would have a detrimental effect on the peace agreement, since reconstruction projects in the South will not be exempted."

Kiir emphasized the need for reconstruction and development to help the country to transition to a time of peace. "There must be a peace dividend," he said. "There is little reason for people to support peace if they have the same living conditions as they did in wartime."

Deng also advocated procedures to ensure that money for reconstruction is well spent to prevent corruption from diluting the six-year "construction site."

Despite these challenges, Kiir said, "things are now picking up."

He cited the institutions created by the CPA, which include the two chambers of the national legislatures, the Council of the State, and the Council of Ministers of the Government of National Unity (GONU) in September.

Additionally, the national commission and committees "essential" to the implementation of the CPA now are in the process of being created, he said. Among these are the Assessment and Evaluation Commission, the National Petroleum Commission, the Cease-fire Political Committee, the Joint Defense Board and the Monetary and Financial Allocation Committee.

The vice president also touched upon the Darfur situation, and was insistent that the SPLM play a role. He said a meeting was held on October 26 to develop a common position of the GONU on negotiations with the Darfur rebels and was optimistic about the upcoming round of negotiations. He said he was confident that a peace agreement in Darfur could be reached before the end of 2005.

In discussing the conflict in Northern Uganda, Kiir also said that if the Lord's Resistance Army, which has been fighting the Uganda government for nearly two decades, did not enter into negotiations or begin a dialogue with the SPLM, the group would not be tolerated in southern Sudan where they maintain rear bases. "How can you have a guest in your house if he cannot talk to you?" he asked rhetorically. ♦

Polio Outbreaks Stopped in 10 West, Central African Nations

A polio epidemic that has been sickening and paralyzing children in West Africa since 2003 is under control, according to an announcement from the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI), a coalition that has been working since 1988 to stop the crippling viral disease.

No new cases of the disease have been reported since June, the November 11 GPEI announcement said, noting that mass immunization campaigns were conducted across 28 countries in the region, reaching as many as 100 million children.

The 10 countries plagued with polio over the last two years previously had been free of the disease. They are Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali and Togo.

GPEI is a combined effort conducted by the World Health Organization, Rotary International,



A medical worker vaccinates a child against polio

the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and UNICEF.

The disease does continue to circulate in the wild in some areas of West Africa, so ongoing immunization campaigns are being con-

ducted in November and December with support from the African Union, the European Commission, Canada and Sweden.

Polio remains endemic in six countries: Nigeria, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Niger and Egypt. The campaign toward eradication suffered a setback in recent years when the virus began to reappear in countries thought previously free of the disease.

Additional information (<http://www.polioeradication.org/>) on the polio eradication campaign is available on the GPEI Web site.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Statement by the Development Assistance Group . . .

(Continued from page 1)

As a result of the situation, the DAG is collectively reviewing development cooperation modalities to Ethiopia with a view to ensuring that our contributions reach the poor effectively in a non-partisan manner.

Recognizing our joint commitment to building a strong democracy with respect for the human rights of each citizen, the DAG, working with the government and all stakeholders, will be addressing the underlying issues that impede progress in order to formulate development cooperation programs that will result in strengthened commit-

ment to democracy and sustainable development.

The Development Assistance Group (DAG) in Ethiopia is represented by African Development Bank (ADB), Austria, Belgium, Canada, United Kingdom, EC Delegation, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, the United States and the World Bank. ♦

Bush Signs \$20.9 Billion 2006 Foreign Aid Spending Measure

By Kathryn McConnell
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- President Bush signed into law November 14 a \$20.9 billion foreign spending bill for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006 (FY06).

A committee of Senate and House of Representatives negotiators agreed to the final version of the bill in early November. The House adopted the measure November 4 by a vote of 358-39 and the Senate by a 91-0 vote on November 10.

The measure provides \$2.8 billion to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis worldwide, exceeding by \$258 million the amount requested by President Bush and by \$629 million the 2005 appropriated amount.

Congress approved \$1.77 billion for the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), which administers the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA). The MCA is a Bush administration foreign aid initiative established in early 2004 to reinforce sound political, economic and social policies in developing countries. Bush had requested \$3 billion for the MCA.

The measure provides funding for bilateral U.S. aid programs as well as global health and security initiatives, U.S. support for international financial institutions and other programs. Highlights of the measure include:

MIDDLE EAST, SOUTH ASIA, SUDAN

Israel -- \$2.3 billion in military aid -- a \$60 million increase over

2005 levels -- and \$240 million in economic assistance;

Egypt -- \$1.3 billion in military aid and \$495 million in economic assistance, provided that Egypt undertakes "significant economic and political reforms which are additional to those which were undertaken in previous fiscal years";

Jordan -- \$250 million in economic assistance;

West Bank and Gaza -- \$2 million in development assistance for programs to be administered by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID);

The bill also provides \$430 million for Afghanistan -- more than double the 2005 amount; \$300 million in military aid for Pakistan; \$70 million for development assistance for Sudan; and \$10 million in economic support for the states of the former Soviet Union.

GLOBAL AID PROGRAMS

\$791 million for migration and refugee assistance;

\$477.2 million for narcotics control and law enforcement and \$734.5 million to support counter-drug activities in the Andean region of South America;

\$410.1 million to support non-proliferation, anti-terrorism and demining;

\$322 million for the Peace Corps;

\$95 million to promote democracy and improvements in the governance, human rights and independent media of emerging econo-

mies;

\$80 million for the Global Environment Facility, which helps developing countries fund programs related to biodiversity, climate change, international waters, land degradation, the ozone layer, and persistent organic pollutants; and

\$4 million for programs that address the needs and protect the rights of people with disabilities in developing countries.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

\$950 million for the International Development Agency (IDA), the arm of the World Bank Group that provides long-term interest-free loans and grants to the poorest developing countries; and

\$100 million for the Asian Development Fund, \$3.64 million for the African Development Bank, \$135.7 million for the African Development Fund and \$1.74 million to the Enterprise for the Americas Multilateral Investment Fund.

To help enhance military security the bill provides \$30 to the Philippines, \$3 million to Mongolia; and \$1 million each to Indonesia, Bangladesh, Thailand, Sri Lanka and Cambodia.

Legislators reduced to \$61 million the amount for reconstruction programs in Iraq, saying funds remain from money already appropriated for Iraq. The administration had requested \$459 million.

The funding measure would also provide \$65 million for the sale, reduction or cancellation of debt

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President Awards Medals of Freedom to Distinguished Recipients

By Michael Bandler
Washington File Staff Writer

Fourteen noted individuals who have contributed mightily to U.S. and global society received the Presidential Medal of Freedom - the nation's highest civil award -- at a White House ceremony November 9.

President Bush saluted the men and women -- drawn from the political, governmental, military, sports and cultural worlds -- for their achievements, pointing to the "special place" they have etched for themselves, and "the respect and affection" they enjoy.

With first lady Laura Bush and honorees' family members and friends looking on, the president described the essence of each individual's uncommon achievement that earned him or her the honor.

Indeed, sometimes, the lines between fields blurred - as with Alan Greenspan, who concludes his 18-year tenure as Federal Reserve chairman this winter. Greenspan, the president noted, played the saxophone and clarinet in a jazz orchestra as a young adult, and studied at the Juilliard School of Music in New York City before his career as an economist.

The nearly two decades Greenspan spent at the Federal Reserve "will always be known as one of phenomenal economic growth, high productivity and unprecedented innovation and opportunity for all our citizens," the president said, stressing the "consistency ... calm and ... wisdom" with which

the chairman conducted his tasks.

More than three decades ago, Vinton Cerf and Robert Kahn -- a computer scientist and an engineer -- pooled their skills and intelligence to conceive the idea of transmitting data speedily and effi-

during three decades of service in Congress, he fashioned the legislation that has enabled millions of veterans to build post-military lives and careers.

Richard B. Myers, who served four years as chairman of the Joint



"Queen of Soul" Aretha Franklin wipes a tear after being honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2005, during ceremonies at the White House. Looking on are fellow recipients Robert Conquest, left, and Alan Greenspan. White House photo by Paul Morse

ciently between separate computer networks. The president told his audience that Kahn had called it "internetting." This technological revolution has enriched "our economy, our lives and our world," Bush said.

Retired U.S. Congressman Sonny Montgomery, of Mississippi, played two roles in public life over the years, then merged them. He served as a soldier in the U.S. Army during World War II and in the Korean War, as well as in the Mississippi National Guard. Later,

Chiefs of Staff -- from just after the terrorist attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001, until his recent retirement -- was hailed by the president for his "integrity and ... courage and leadership" that has made America "a stronger and safer nation." Myers, Bush said, "helped set the military on a vital and necessary course of transformation, so that America will be ready to confront and overcome the challenges of the future."

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President Awards Medals of Freedom . . .

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Nonfiction literature -- specifically history -- was represented at the ceremony by Robert Conquest, scholar and author of more than 20 books on the Soviet Union, politics and international affairs, most notably *The Great Terror*, his classic 1968 volume on Joseph Stalin's purges of the 1930s. Conquest told truths, Bush pointed out, that "were not always in fashion. But the cautionary lessons he taught about murderous ideologies and the men who served them will always be relevant."

However one defines the term "hero," events that unfolded in Rwanda in the early 1990s gave rise to the courageous choices that hotelier Paul Rusesabagina made -- under intense stress. His hotel became a haven for more than a thousand people during the genocide in that country. In honoring Rusesabagina, the president called attention to "his commanding presence, his shrewd manner of negotiating, and his incredible calm amid the crisis and chaos."

Paying tribute to radio personality Paul Harvey, Bush underscored not only the broadcaster's tirelessness in writing his own scripts and advertising copy for more than 1,200 radio stations, but also qualities that mirror "the patriotism, the good humor, the kindness and common sense of Americans."

Moving to the popular culture sector, the president honored three readily identifiable talents -- actors Carol Burnett and Andy Griffith and singer Aretha Franklin.

Burnett, who -- as actress, singer and author -- has worked in the worlds of film, television, theater

and literature with charm, wit, lack of pretense and homespun warmth, was cited by Bush for "her goodness of heart, her sincerity and the wonderful spirit that comes through."

Griffith, whose famed folksiness in various television and movie roles belied a serious dramatic power highlighted in other films, was a high school teacher before choosing to become an actor.

Regarding Franklin, the minister's daughter known around the world as "the Queen of Soul," the president quoted a record executive, who once said "she finds meanings in lyrics that the composers didn't even know they had."

The final three honorees represented a world that, arguably, is the most popular among Americans -- sports. Frank Robinson, currently manager of the newly established Washington Nationals major league baseball team, is something of a trail-blazer -- a member of the Hall of Fame, the first African-American manager in baseball and a recipient of "most valuable player" and "manager of the year" honors in each of the sport's two leagues. "In the game we love," said the president, who was a team owner before entering politics, "few names will ever command as much respect and esteem as ... Frank Robinson."

Golfer Jack Nicklaus was presented to the audience as someone who once gave Bush a succinct piece of advice for his golf game -- "Quit." On a more serious note, though, the president underscored the champion's "intense focus and unyielding competitiveness" that is so vital to success in the sport.

The 14th individual who received a 2005 Medal of Freedom was Muhammad Ali, whose record, from his gold medal triumph at the 1960 Olympics through years in the ring, totaled 56 wins, including 37 knockouts and 19 successful title defenses. But more than that, more than his stylistic shuffle, lightning jabs, total command, determination and guts, the president said, has been "his beautiful soul," and the fact that "across the worlds, billions of people know Muhammad Ali as a brave, compassionate and charming man," Bush said.

This year's ceremony was the latest in a series going back more than 40 years. President John F. Kennedy formally established the Medal of Freedom honor by executive order in 1963. But even earlier, in 1945, President Harry S. Truman presented the first Medals of Freedom to men and women who served their nation with distinction during World War II.

Today, an event such as this offers an all-too-rare opportunity for the public and private sectors to pause and take stock of the men and women who have served the nation and even the world selflessly, in so many ways -- in highly visible roles in government or on the screen or playing fields, or behind the scenes, in the silence of a lab or the grit and peril of a military campaign far from loved ones and home.

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Japan-U.S. Relationship Equal Partnership for Freedom, Says Bush

The relationship between the United States and Japan is an equal partnership based on common values, interests and a commitment to freedom, says President Bush.

"Freedom has made our two democracies close allies," Bush said November 15 in Kyoto, Japan. "By embracing political and economic liberty, [Japan has] improved the lives of its citizens and [has] shown others that freedom is the surest path to prosperity and stability."

The president's visit to Japan is the first stop on a weeklong trip to Asia to attend the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders meeting in Busan, South Korea.

"Japan is using its freedom to advance the cause of peace and prosperity around the world -- and the world is a better place for your leadership," Bush said adding appreciation for Tokyo's contribution to reconstruction operations in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The president said he hoped the APEC meetings would serve as an opportunity for Pacific Rim leaders, who are concerned about the harmful effects of high tariffs and farm subsidies, to help move the Doha round of World Trade Organization (WTO) talks forward.

"By using its influence to push for an ambitious result in the Doha round, APEC can help create a world trading system that is freer and fairer -- and helps spread prosperity and opportunity throughout the world," he said.

Turning to the threat of avian influenza, Bush urged greater cooperation among nations in the region to prepare for and to respond to the

"The United States supported China's entry into the WTO because a China that abides by the same global rules as everyone else will contribute to a free and fair world trading system," Bush said. (See USA and the WTO.)

Some Asian nations still have not even taken the first steps towards freedom, the president said, citing extreme human rights abuses in

Burma, as well as North Korea. (See U.S. Policy Toward North Korea.)

Addressing the recent negotiations to end North Korea's nuclear weapons program, Bush called for the implementation of agreements signed in September. "That means a comprehensive diplomatic effort from all the countries involved -- backed by firm resolve," the president said.

Bush said he planned to use his trip to the

region to "to build on the progress" from the Asia-Pacific Partnership on Clean Energy Development.

The energy conservation plan was signed by the United States, Australia, China, India, Japan and South Korea in July to find practical ways to improve energy efficiency and to promote the sharing of conservation technology. "By working together, we will promote economic growth and reduce emissions -- and help build a better and cleaner world," the president said.♦



President Bush, left, with Prime Minister of Japan Junichiro Koizumi at the Kyoto State Guest House in Kyoto.
(AP Photo Everett Kennedy Brown)

possibility of a pandemic. "Every nation in the world has an interest in helping to detect and contain any outbreak before it can spread," the president said. (See Bird Flu (Avian Influenza).)

The president reiterated his administration's intention to press China to increase its access to U.S. markets, adding that even though China's recent decision to implement a market-based exchange system was welcome, there is still much more Beijing needs to accomplish.

Bush Says Amman Bombers "Defile a Great Religion"

President Bush said the November 9 bombings of hotels in Jordan serves as a reminder that terrorists are "willing to kill innocent people ... in order to advance their cause," and he called upon the international community to remain strong to defeat them.

Speaking at the White House November 10 with Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, Bush said the attacks were carried out by "killers who defile a great religion."

On November 9, three suicide terrorists with suspected links to the al-Qaida terrorist group detonated three bombs within minutes of each other at three major hotels in Amman, Jordan. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/is/Archive/2005/Nov/09-596377.html>).)

"The bombings should remind all of us that there is an enemy in this world that is willing to kill innocent people, willing to bomb a wedding celebration in order to advance their cause," he said, adding that those who "love freedom [and] ... who respect every human," in the United States, the Middle East and around the world, "we have an obligation and a duty to remain strong, to remain firm and to bring these people to justice."

Bush said he and President Saleh would be discussing the War on Terror and "how to bring al-Qaida to justice."

The Yemeni leader said the "major objective" of his third meeting with Bush was "the declaration of war



U.S. President George W. Bush puts his hand to his heart as he expresses his 'heartfelt sympathies for the people of Jordan' after signing a book of condolences at the Jordanian embassy in Washington November 10, 2005.

against terrorism and extremism."

"[W]e are here to reaffirm that Yemen's position is clear and firm, our resolve is firm to continue to work with the United States and the international community in combating terror," he said.

For additional information on U.S. policy, see Response to Terrorism (http://usinfo.state.gov/is/international_security/terrorism.html).

Following is the transcript of President Bush remarks:

(begin transcript)

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
November 10, 2005

REMARKS BY PRESIDENT
BUSH
The Oval Office

11:28 A.M. EST

PRESIDENT BUSH: Mr. President, welcome. I'm looking forward to our discussion. I'm looking forward to our continued work together to make sure that al Qaeda and people affiliated with al Qaeda are brought to justice.

Today, the world saw with horror the attacks on innocent people in Jordan by killers who defile a great religion. I spoke to King Abdullah. I expressed our nation's deep concern and compassion for those who lost their lives and their families. The bombings should remind all of us that there is an enemy in this world that is willing to kill innocent people, willing to bomb a wedding celebration, in order to advance their cause. And for those of us who love freedom, and for those of us who love -- who respect every human life, no matter whether you're from the West or from your neighborhood, Mr. President, we have an obligation and a duty to remain strong, remain firm, and to bring these people to justice.

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Faith in Freedom Will Defeat Ideology of Terror, Bush Declares

By Howard Cincotta
Washington File Special
Correspondent

Washington -- In a major address that condemned the ideology of terrorism and presented a strategy for defeating it, President Bush asserted that "because free peoples believe in the future, free peoples will own the future."

He spoke to an audience of veterans and military personnel at a U. S. Army facility in Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania, on November 11.

The president said that global acts of terrorism -- from Indonesia to Jordan -- might appear to be random and senseless, but they are neither. "While the killers choose their victims indiscriminately, their attacks serve a clear and focused ideology -- a set of beliefs and goals that are evil, but not insane."

These extremists -- many of whom are members of or associated with loose global network known as al-Qaida -- seek to establish a totalitarian empire that denies all political and religious freedom through terrorism, violence and intimidation, according to the president.

Whether this evil is called "Islamic radicalism ... militant Jihadism, or Islamo-fascism, this ideology is very different from the religion of Islam," Bush asserted, by distorting religion into a call for terrorist murder of all those, in-



President George W. Bush greets the audience after delivering remarks on the war on terror, Friday, Nov. 11, 2005 at the Tobyhanna Army Depot in Tobyhanna, Pa. White House photo by Eric Draper

cluding Muslims, who do not share their radical vision.

"The murderous ideology of the Islamic radicals is the great challenge of our new century," he said.

Terrorist networks thrive like parasites on the suffering and frustration of others, Bush said. They manipulate local conflicts, create a culture of victimization, and exploit resentful young people by recruiting them as pawns of terror.

President Bush cites three principal goals of terrorist organizations like al-Qaida:

- Eliminating Western influence throughout the broader Middle East because the U.S. and other nations stand for the fundamental

principles of freedom and democracy that the terrorists oppose;

- Gaining control of an entire country -- much as they did in Afghanistan under the Taliban -- which can then be used as a base from which to launch a war against more moderate Arab and Muslim states; and

- Establishing a radical Islamic state stretching from Spain to Indonesia following the ouster of Western influence, and the overthrow of moderate governments, according to the president.

President Bush said, "With the greater economic, military and political power they seek, the terrorists would be able to advance their stated agenda: to develop weap-

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Faith in Freedom Will Defeat Ideology of Terror . . .

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ons of mass destruction; to destroy Israel; to intimidate Europe; to assault the American people; and to blackmail our government into isolation."

Bush cited what he called "helpers and enablers" of terrorism, such as corrupted charities; intolerant strains of Islam; and elements of the Arab news media that feed on conspiracy theories and incites hatred and anti-Semitism.

These groups claim America is waging "war on Islam," the president said, ignoring American actions to protect Muslims in Afghanistan, Bosnia and Somalia, Kosovo and Kuwait and Iraq, and to provide assistance to victims of natural disasters in Indonesia and Pakistan.

SYRIA, IRAN

Bush pointed as well to authoritarian regimes like Iran and Syria that give protection to extremists and use terrorist propaganda to avoid blame for their own failures.

Bush specifically criticized Syria for the arrest of democratic reformer Kamal Labani, and for a "strident speech" that attacked

both the Lebanese government and the U.N. investigation into the assassination of Lebanon's former prime minister.

"The government of Syria must stop exporting violence and start importing democracy," Bush declared.

President Bush denied the claim that the U.S. presence in Iraq strengthens extremism, pointing out that the U.S. was not present in Iraq when the 9/11 attacks occurred.

"The hatred of the radicals existed before Iraq was an issue, and it will exist after Iraq is no longer an excuse," Bush said.

"No act of ours invited the rage of killers -- and no concession, bribe, or act of appeasement would change or limit their plans for murder," Bush said. "On the contrary, they target nations whose behavior they believe they can change through violence. Against such an enemy, there is only one effective response: We will never back down, we will never give in, we will never accept anything less than complete victory."

Like communism, which was de-

feated in the last century Islamic radicalism contains contradictions that doom it to failure, according to the president,.

"Those who despise freedom and progress have condemned themselves to isolation and decline and collapse," Bush declared. "Because free peoples believe in the future, free peoples will own the future."

STRATEGY FOR WINNING WAR ON TERROR

To defeat "a broad and adaptive network" of terrorism requires patience, pressure, and strong global partners, President Bush said as he laid out a five-point strategy:

- Prevent terrorist attacks before they occur through such means as better-coordinated homeland defenses and intelligence activities;
- Deny weapons of mass destruction to "outlaw regimes and to their terrorist allies;"
- Deny terrorist groups the support of any government or regime;
- Deny militants control of any nation that would become "a launching pad for terror;" and

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Bush Signs \$20.9 Billion 2006 Foreign Aid Spending . . .

(Continued from page 5)

owed to the United States by eligible poor countries.

It stipulates that no funding shall be made available to pay for abortions as a method of family planning.

The bill also includes money for the Export-Import Bank of the

United States (Ex-Im Bank), which provides loans, loan guarantees and grants to credit-worthy U.S. exporters; the Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC), an agency that through loans helps U.S. businesses invest in economic development projects in new and emerging markets; and the Trade and Development Agency (TDA),

which funds technical assistance, feasibility studies, training, and other activities that support the development of infrastructures and fair and open trading environments in developing countries.

Ex-Im Bank is to receive \$100 million, OPIC \$20.28 million and TDA \$50.9 million. ♦

U.S. Promotes Information Technology in Developing World

By Tim Receveur
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington – Information and communication technology (ICT) has been the driving force behind rapid economic growth around the world, and is “transforming social and economic activity faster than the steam engine, railroads, and electricity did in earlier times,” says the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

But many countries are not taking full advantage of these opportunities.

In March 2003, USAID joined the departments of Commerce and State, the Peace Corps, the USA Freedom Corps and technology industry leaders in launching the Digital Freedom Initiative (DFI), a private-public partnership that promotes economic growth by transferring the benefits of information technology to entrepreneurs and small businesses in the developing world.

Under DFI, volunteers from the private sector and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) are placed with local businesses and entrepreneurs to share business knowledge and technology expertise, and help them develop the ICT skills and products -- such as Web sites -- needed to compete better in both the regional and global market place.

In addition, DFI looks for ways to leverage existing technology and communications infrastructure -- such as local cyber cafés and community telecenters -- in new ways, for instance generating commodity price information or providing financial services.



Dan Caprio

Another goal is to help countries create pro-competitive policy and regulatory environments as a foundation for progress.

DFI launched its first projects in Senegal, and now also supports projects and training in Peru, Indonesia and Jordan.

“As President Bush often says, an important role of government is to help create the conditions for economic growth, creativity and innovation to prosper,” says Dan Caprio, deputy assistant secretary for technology policy at the Department of Commerce (DOC).

DFI IS A PARTNERSHIP

In an interview with the Washington File November 3, Caprio discussed the Digital Freedom Initiative and some of its achievements in partner countries.

He said DFI is based on the concept of a partnership. In each partner country, the program is implemented through an alliance with U. S. public sector agencies and private companies in coordination with the host country’s government and its private sector.

“The goal of the program is to find where development and policy interests meet in a partner country committed to regulatory reform,” Caprio said.

In addition to the U.S. government agencies already mentioned, the Small Business Administration and others also play a role. Private sector companies provide vision, strategy and business expertise to all phases of the DFI. A pillar of this collaborative effort is the DFI Business Roundtable, which currently includes more than 40 U.S. businesses, NGOs and academic institutions. Among these are such leaders in the technology field as Cisco Systems, Hewlett-Packard and Intel.

“The reaction to DFI has been very positive,” said Caprio. “People recognize that DFI is a new form of foreign assistance.”

Countries participating in DFI “provide a positive example for other countries, showing a path forward with tangible benefits,” he added.

TANGIBLE BENEFITS IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

According to the Commerce Department, DFI partner countries have seen increases in small business growth, market efficiency, business integration with international partners and markets and job growth.

The program has helped local businesses, universities, NGOs, medical centers and telecommunications centers increase productivity through information technology.

(Continued on page 13)

U.S. Promotes Information Technology . . .

(Continued from page 12)
ogy.

At Senegal's Université du Sahel in Dakar, President El Hadji I. Sall said the funding through the DFI has helped him reach his dreams of a world class Web site (<http://www.unis.sn/>) with international reach.

Of the thousands of students enrolled at the university, nearly 80 percent come from outside of Senegal. Sall said the DFI-funded Web portal drastically has improved the communication with the students living abroad.

"Prospective students used to send their registration through regular mail. The process took, on average, three months. Now it takes only one week to process applications, make decision and inform parents," he said.

In Jordan a U.S. nonprofit organization, One Global Economy, supported by the Intel Corporation, is working with the Jordanian Ministry of Information and Communications Technology to develop a model reference community or "e-village."

The project will serve two Jordanian villages -- Libb and Mleih -- characterized by high levels of poverty and unemployment despite high education rates among residents.

DFI also is helping to build an Arabic Web portal in Jordan to assist local businesses in finding in-

formation on business development opportunities. The portal also will provide access to educational and medical resources.

In early November, the United States and Peru signed an agreement to enhance the flexibility of the program in Peru, allowing U.S. companies, NGOs and academic institutions to take a more active role in assisting entrepreneurs and business in partner countries.



On November 16, the U.N.-sponsored World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) will convene in Tunis, Tunisia, to discuss ways to bring the benefits of technology to the developing world and the future of Internet governance. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2005/Nov/03-962047.html>)).

A plan of action to pursue goals of expanding ICT access came out of the first round of the summit

held in Geneva in 2003. In advance of the WSIS second round in Tunis, talks and media attention have focused on Internet governance. The United States has made repeated calls to the United Nations and the international community to remain focused on the important goal of expanding ICT access to the developing world during the second round of the summit. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/eur/Archive/2005/Oct/28-406726.html>)).

USAID currently is involved in helping expand ICT access and capabilities in more than 80 nations and devotes about \$200 million to these goals each year, supporting about 350 ICT development activities around the world.

More information about the Digital Freedom Initiative can be

found on the DFI Web site (<http://www.dfi.gov/>).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Developing Countries Urged to Open Financial Markets Through WTO

By Bruce Odessey
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Bush administration officials say that more prosperous developing countries have failed so far to submit adequate offers in World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations for opening their markets to financial services.

Of the 148 WTO members, 69 have submitted initial offers, but "the quality of offers in emerging markets of greatest interest is still poor," said Christine Bliss, acting assistant U.S. trade representative for services and investment.

Testifying November 15 before a House of Representatives Financial Services subcommittee, Bliss said that securing higher quality commitments remains a major challenge.

"We need greater participation, particularly among emerging markets, such as Brazil, India, China, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, South Africa and the Philippines," Bliss said.

The negotiations, formally called the Doha Development Agenda, have stalled almost since their launch in 2001 over politically sensitive agricultural trade issues.

They remain stalled a month before a December 13-18 ministerial meeting in Hong Kong, even after the United States made an effort to revive them by proposing substantial reductions in domestic agricultural support payments and agricultural tariffs. (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/Archive/2005/Nov/09-445315.html>).)

The standoff over agriculture in part has prevented substantial progress in the negotiations over cutting industrial tariffs and opening markets in services. Still, the U.S. position remains that the Doha round negotiations should conclude by the end of 2006.

According to Bliss, the United States wants from the WTO financial services negotiations increased market access for U.S. suppliers coupled with transparency in the development and application of laws and regulations for banking, securities, asset management, pension funds and financial advisory services.

More specifically, she said, the United States asks its WTO trading partners to submit offers on:

Commercial presence, meaning the right to establish new and acquire existing companies;

Cross-border supply and consumption rights, which are especially important for marine, aviation, transport insurance, reinsurance and brokerage services; and

Removal of discriminatory limitations such as monopolies, quotas and economic needs tests.

She said the United States is working with the European Union (EU), Canada, Japan and Switzerland -- other financial services exporters -- to promote offers from other countries.

Developing countries have their own interests in the services negotiations, of course, Bliss said. Some, especially India, are pressing hard on what the WTO calls "Mode 4" -- temporary ac-

cess for their workers to perform jobs in other countries.

So far, she said, the United States has submitted no offer on Mode 4, mindful of resistance in the U.S. Congress.

Also testifying was Clay Lowery, assistant secretary of Treasury for international affairs. He cited World Bank estimates that by 2015 income gains from services liberalization could provide 4.5 times the gains from goods liberalization alone.

He argued that opening financial markets also would promote financial stability among developing countries.

"Foreign participation in the financial sectors of developing countries brings in strong new players that provide greater liquidity to the market, greater loss-absorption capabilities, and enhanced risk management techniques," Lowery said.

The prepared testimony of Bliss (<http://financialservices.house.gov/media/pdf/111505cb.pdf>) and Lowery (<http://financialservices.house.gov/media/pdf/111505cl.pdf>) is available on the House Financial Services Committee Web site.

For additional information on U.S. trade policy, see USA and the WTO (http://usinfo.state.gov/ei/economic_issues/WTO.html).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

Biotechnology Advances Feeding the Hungry, Preserving Environment

By Tim Receveur
Washington File Special Correspondent

Washington -- Advances in biotechnology are having a beneficial effect not only in providing enough food for the world's ever-increasing population, but also in protecting the environment, said biotechnology expert Andrew Benson in a November 9 Internet chat.

Benson, the vice president of international relations for the International Food Information Council (IFIC), said the United States is cooperating with government agencies and research institutions in the developing world, including countries in Africa, on a number of biotechnology initiatives.

"Promising research work is being undertaken in Egypt, Kenya, Nigeria, Burkina Faso and a number of other African countries, working on crops that are resistant to major insect infestations and to African plant viruses that regularly decimate or destroy crops and harvests," he said. "Drought-resistant properties are another very important area of research and future potential."

Benson, who is responsible for the development and implementation of IFIC's international programs on food safety and nutrition, said more than one third of biotech crops grown around the world today are in developing countries -- a trend he expects to see continue.

Among the environmental benefits of biotechnology cited by Benson were reduced levels of pesticides, reduced tillage, less soil erosion and less water runoff of herbicides and pesticides into streams and the water supply.

"Growing more food on the same amount of land will also help us preserve natural resources for future generations," he said.

Attitudes and policies towards biotechnology are beginning to shift, Benson said.

"While there is clearly some consumer reticence, and the EU imposed an 'unofficial' moratorium, that moratorium has now been lifted and there has been a series of official approvals of varieties of biotech maize [corn] and soy," he said.

"The scientific authorities in the EU, including those in international organizations like FAO [Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations] and WHO [World Health Organization], have all attested to the safety of these products," Benson said. He believes that as Europeans discover more about the benefits and safety of biotechnology, their attitudes slowly will start to change.

In the United States all new food products must meet the standards of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) before they can be sold to consumers. In addition to FDA testing, Benson said the U.S. National Academies of Science

also has researched biotech plants and has found that the "process of genetic engineering is no more likely to produce harmful effects than other forms of plant breeding."

"Biotech foods have been eaten by 280 million consumers in the U.S. for the last nine to 10 years with no negative consequences," he said.

The IFIC is a nonprofit organization that communicates sound science-based information on food safety and nutrition topics to health professionals, journalists, government officials and consumers, according to its Web site. IFIC's programs are supported by the broad-based food, beverage and agriculture industries. Additional information is available on the organization's Web site (<http://www.ific.org/>).

For a thorough examination of the biotechnology and related public policy issues, see the U.S. Department of State's electronic journal entitled *The Promise of Biotechnology* (<http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/ites/1005/ijee/ijee1005.htm>).

(The Washington File is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)♦

United States Tough on Environmental Crime in 2005

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) used enforcement measures to reduce pollution and to put polluters in jail in 2005, according to a November 14 EPA press release.

"Our enforcement statistics show significant progress in criminal enforcement and securing compliance and environmental benefits," said Granta Y. Nakayama, EPA's assistant administrator for enforcement and compliance assurance.

The improved environmental stewardship EPA has achieved through pursuit of violators will reduce pollution by more than 450 million kilograms, the agency projects.

The companies, governments and other entities that have agreed to better environmental practices will spend a record \$10 billion to do so, almost double what was spent as a result of EPA's 2004 enforcement actions.

As a result of 2005 enforcement actions, 8 million Americans will have safer drinking water and the air will be free of more than 280 million kilograms of pollutants that otherwise would have been emitted.

The text of the EPA press release follows:

(begin text)

Tuesday, November 15, 2005
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

EPA Enforcement Cuts Pollution by 1 Billion Pounds; Requires \$10 Billion to Be Spent on Cleaning Up

(Washington, D.C.-Nov. 15,

2005) EPA enforcement actions in fiscal year 2005 resulted in legal commitments by companies, governments and other regulated entities to reduce a projected 1.1 billion pounds of pollution and require that they spend a record \$10 billion to come into compliance with environmental laws. This is an increase of \$5 billion over last year. EPA's criminal enforcement program helped successfully prosecute some of the largest environmental crimes in history in FY 2005, with judges imposing significant sentences and large criminal fines. Most annual measures of the agency's enforcement and compliance activity surpassed or kept pace with previous years, indicating continued progress in deterring violations of the nation's environmental laws.

"EPA's enforcement strategy and accomplishments demonstrate our commitment to achieving cleaner air, cleaner water and healthier communities," said Granta Y. Nakayama, EPA's assistant administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. "Our enforcement statistics show significant progress in criminal enforcement and securing compliance and environmental benefits."

Among the environmental benefits resulting from agency actions during FY 2005, EPA estimates that 28.2 million cubic yards of contaminated soil and 1.6 billion cubic yards of contaminated water will be cleaned up; 1,900 acres of wetlands will be protected; and the drinking water of more than 8 million Americans be safer. Criminal defendants will pay \$100 million in criminal fines and restitution and serve more than 186 years in jail. Our 10 biggest air pollution

cases will reduce more than 620 million pounds of pollutants annually and that will produce annual human health benefits valued at more than \$4.6 billion. The benefits include reductions in premature mortality, bronchitis, hospitalizations and work days lost.

Tackling the problems of older municipal water systems that cause overflows of raw sewage into streets, yards, basements, and bodies of water was an EPA enforcement priority again this year. Together with states, EPA has concluded major sewer cases in FY 2005 to reduce more than 19 billion gallons of raw sewage overflows annually.

Supplemental Environmental Projects, which are environmentally beneficial projects that a violator voluntarily agrees to perform as part of an enforcement settlement, increased by 19 percent to be worth \$57 million in FY 2005.

A record number of entities (627) voluntarily disclosed violations to EPA -- a 28 percent increase over FY 2004. The agency achieved a reduction of 1.9 million pounds of pollutants as a result of audits.

Approximately 612,000 businesses and individuals received assistance from EPA in FY 2005 to help understand their environmental responsibilities and comply with environmental laws.

More information on EPA's FY 2005 enforcement and compliance program, including details of significant enforcement and compliance assurance activities and data are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/data/results/annual/fy2005.html> ♦

Officials Outline U.S. Efforts To Prepare for Potential Pandemic

By Susan Krause
Washington File Staff Writer

Washington -- Bush administration officials on November 9 recapped U.S. government efforts to prepare for a potential human pandemic of avian influenza, or bird flu.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee heard from a panel that included Paula Dobriansky, under secretary of state for democracy and global affairs; Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH); Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC); and Andrew Natsios, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).

Committee Chairman Richard Lugar (Republican from Indiana), who said he called the hearing to assess the current state of preparedness, said he was pleased when President Bush unveiled a national pandemic plan on November 1, but expressed concern that response to the threat has been "underfunded and behind schedule." (See related article (<http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/Archive/2005/Nov/01-163590.html>).)

"Five years have passed since the GAO recommended that the Department of Health and Human Services complete the national pandemic plan," Lugar said in an opening statement. "Other countries, such as Canada and Japan, seem to be much farther along in their preparation and have had national plans in place for some time."

The administration representatives outlined a variety of initiatives that

are planned or already under way to strengthen international collaboration in areas such as surveillance, detection, and containment. They also briefed the committee on research efforts to develop effective vaccines and anti-viral drugs.

"Since diseases do not respect borders, an effective global response is critical," said Under Secretary Dobriansky. "No country can fight avian influenza alone."

STATE DEPARTMENT OVERSEES INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Dobriansky told the committee that the State Department has become involved in pandemic preparedness because the effort requires extensive diplomatic engagement and international cooperation.

"This issue requires the involvement of not only ministries of health and agriculture but also ministries of foreign affairs and executive offices of presidents and prime ministers," she said. "Our framework for action is predicated on measures in support of surveillance, preparedness, and response and containment."

As a next step, Dobriansky added, "[W]e will hold another meeting of the Senior Officials of the International Partnership on Avian and Pandemic Influenza in late January or early February to take stock of the progress being achieved and to determine what additional steps should be taken."

Dobriansky said she believed the emphasis on international cooperation was having an impact, particularly in the hardest-hit areas of Asia.

"Countries that lack the capacity to prepare for, and respond to, an influenza pandemic are showing growing understanding and increasing willingness to confront the problem," she concluded. "They realize that the cost of taking action now is significantly less than the cost of a pandemic."

NIAID FOCUSING ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, CLINICAL TRIALS

According to Dr. Anthony Fauci, NIH, and particularly NIAID -- divisions of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) -- have primary responsibility for conducting scientific research and clinical trials to encourage the development of new anti-viral drugs, diagnostics and vaccines.

Fauci said the institutes are supporting a number of basic research projects, including a genome sequencing initiative, to improve understanding of how animal and human influenza viruses "replicate, interact with their hosts, stimulate the immune response, and evolve into new strains."

As a result of these efforts, Fauci said NIAID has made rapid progress on development of a vaccine for the H5N1 strain of avian influenza, which is believed to present the greatest pandemic potential.

CDC SAYS EARLY WARNING IS CRITICAL

Dr. Julie Gerberding said the CDC, another HHS agency, is one of four WHO Influenza Collaborating Centers and plays an active role in global pandemic preparedness planning.

(Continued on page 19)

Food Precautions Necessary to Prevent Bird Flu Transmission

People cannot become infected with the avian influenza virus by eating poultry that has been properly cooked, the World Health Organization says.

In a fact sheet, the organization emphasizes that the H5N1 avian influenza has been shown to infect all parts of the bird, including the meat, so safe handling and cooking is extremely important in areas experiencing outbreaks.

For additional information on the disease and efforts to combat it, see Bird Flu (Avian Influenza) (http://usinfo.state.gov/gi/global_issues/bird_flu.html).

The text of the WHO fact sheet follows:

(begin fact sheet)

World Health Organization
[Geneva, Switzerland]

Food safety issues

November 2005

The H5N1 avian influenza virus is not transmitted to humans through properly cooked food. The virus is sensitive to heat. Normal temperatures used for cooking (so that food reaches 70 degrees C in all parts) will kill the virus. To date, no evidence indicates that any person has become infected with the H5N1 virus following the consumption of properly cooked poultry or poultry products, even in cases where the food item contained the virus prior to cooking. Poultry and poultry products from areas free of the disease can be prepared and consumed as usual, with no fear of acquiring infection with the H5N1 virus. As a stan-

dard precaution, WHO recommends that poultry and poultry products should always be prepared following good hygienic practices, and that poultry meat should be properly cooked. This recommendation protects consumers from some well-known and common foodborne diseases that may be transmitted via inadequately cooked poultry.

Most strains of avian influenza virus are found only in the respiratory and gastrointestinal tracts of infected birds, and not in meat. Available studies indicate that highly pathogenic viruses, including the H5N1 virus, spread to virtually all parts of an infected bird, including meat. For this reason, proper handling of poultry and poultry products during food preparation and proper cooking are extremely important in areas experiencing outbreaks of H5N1 avian influenza in poultry.

Consumers in areas with outbreaks need to be aware of the risks of cross-contamination between raw poultry and other foods that will not be cooked prior to their consumption. Juices from raw poultry or poultry products should never be allowed, during food preparation, to touch or mix with items eaten raw. When handling raw poultry or raw poultry products, persons involved in food preparation should wash their hands thoroughly and clean and disinfect surfaces in contact with the poultry products. Soap and hot water are sufficient for this purpose.

In countries with outbreaks, thorough cooking is imperative. Consumers need to be sure that all parts of the poultry are fully

cooked (no "pink" parts) and that eggs, too, are properly cooked (no "runny" yolks).

The H5N1 virus can survive for at least one month at low temperatures. For this reason, common food preservation measures, such as freezing and refrigeration, will not substantially reduce the concentration of virus in contaminated meat or kill the virus. In countries with outbreaks, poultry stored under refrigeration or frozen should be handled and prepared with the same precautions as fresh products.

In countries with outbreaks, eggs may contain virus both on the outside (shell) and inside (white and yolk). Eggs from areas with outbreaks should not be consumed raw or partially cooked. Raw eggs should not be used in foods that will not be treated by heat high enough to kill the virus (70°C).

To date, a large number of human infections with the H5N1 virus have been linked to the home slaughter and subsequent handling of diseased or dead birds prior to cooking. These practices represent the highest risk of human infection and are the most important to avoid. Proper handling and cooking of poultry and poultry products can further lower the risk of human infections.

(end fact sheet)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>) ♦

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Faith in Freedom Will Defeat Ideology of Terror . . .

(Continued from page 11)

· "Replace hatred and resentment with democracy and hope across the broader Middle East."

In Iraq, Bush said, "The terrorist goal is to overthrow a rising democracy, claim a strategic country as a haven for terror, destabilize the Middle East, and strike America and other free nations with increasing violence. Our goal is to defeat the terrorists and their allies at the heart of their power, so we will defeat the enemy in Iraq."

The coalition strategy in Iraq is to "clear, hold, and build," according to the president: clear out terrorists, hold the area to make it secure, and build lasting democratic institutions.

He cited progress in training police and security forces, as well as Iraqis voting for a new constitution in October and preparing to vote for a new government in December.

"The elected leaders of Iraq are proving to be strong and steadfast," Bush said. "By any standard or precedent of history, Iraq has made incredible political progress -- from tyranny, to liberation, to national elections, to the ratification of a constitution -- in the space of two-and-a-half years."

The U.S. will work for democracy and reform, he said, and advocate "clearly and confidently our belief in self-determination, and the rule of law, and religious freedom, and equal rights for women -- beliefs that are right and true in every land and in every culture."

He also praised the efforts of Muslims around the world who have stood against extremism, often at great personal risk, to ensure "the survival of their own liberty, the future of their own region, the justice and humanity of their own tradition." ♦

Officials Outline U.S. Efforts To Prepare . . .

(Continued from page 17)

Gerberding stressed the importance of timely sharing of information and transparency: "An outbreak anywhere increases risk everywhere. The ability of the United States and the world to slow or stop the spread of an influenza pandemic is highly dependent upon early warning of outbreaks."

In the last year, the CDC director said, HHS and its agencies, in close collaboration with WHO and other international partners, have particularly focused on improved surveillance in Southeast Asia.

USAID PRIORITY IS CONTAINMENT

USAID Administrator Andrew Natsios said his agency is working closely with other governments to track animal outbreaks in order to

implement aggressive containment measures as quickly as possible.

Natsios said USAID has developed reports assessing preparedness in 98 countries, and will use these as a baseline to guide its program activities.

By the end of January 2006, he said, multisector preparedness plans developed with USAID assistance will be complete in Vietnam, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Laos. Shortly thereafter, the agency expects to have early warning systems and national response teams in place in those countries. These will confirm and report outbreaks of disease.

According to Natsios, USAID also plans to help implement awareness campaigns promoting safe behavior in "high-risk" countries, and to

help governments identify compensation options that will encourage small farmers to report disease in their flocks.

"In total, USAID obligated \$13.7 million in Fiscal Year 2005 (the year ending September 30, 2005) to help prevent and contain avian influenza in Southeast Asia, where the largest impact of this epidemic has been felt," he said.

The full text (<http://foreign.senate.gov/hearings/2005/hrg051109a.html>) of the administration officials' prepared statements and Chairman Lugar's opening remarks can be found at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Web site. ♦